

Message Text

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E - RSORENSEN (SUBS)

C - WSHINN

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 078879

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW FLASH

UNCLAS STATE 217308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, US, UR

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. FOLLOWING ARE USDA SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT
AND EXCERPTS FROM WASHINGTON POST REPORT OF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BELL'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON SEPTEMBER 11.

2. CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

CORN--PRODUCTION IS FORECAST AT A RECORD 5,687 MILLION
BUSHELLS BASED ON CONDITIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 3 PERCENT
(162 MILLION BUSHELLS) BELOW AUGUST 1 BUT 22 PERCENT ABOVE
1974.

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SORGHUM GRAIN--PRODUCTION IS FORECAST AT 785 MILLION

BUSHEL, DOWN 3 PERCENT (25 MILLION BUSHEL) FROM AUGUST 1 BUT 25 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

FEED GRAIN--PRODUCTION (CORN, SORGHUM, OATS AND BARLEY COMBINED) IS FORECAST AT 201 MILLION SHORT TONS, 22 PERCENT

ABOVE LAST YEAR.

SOYBEAN--PRODUCTION AT 1,442 MILLION BUSHEL, IS DOWN 1 PERCENT (15 MILLION BUSHEL) FROM A MONTH EARLIER BUT 17 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR.

ALL COTTON--PRODUCTION IS FORECAST AT 9.3 MILLION BALES, 1 PERCENT (0.1 MILLION BALES) BELOW AUGUST 1, AND 19 PERCENT BELOW 1974.

OILSEED--PRODUCTION (SOYBEAN, COTTONSEED, PEANUTS AND FLAXSEED COMBINED) IS FORECAST AT 49 MILLION SHORT TONS, 13 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

ALL WHEAT--PRODUCTION IS INDICATED AT A RECORD 2,136 MILLION BUSHEL, 19 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S CROP.

FOOD GRAIN--OUTPUT (WHEAT, RYE AND RICE COMBINED) IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL 71 MILLION SHORT TONS, 18 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

ALL TOBACCO-IS FORECAST AT 2,200 MILLION POUNDS, DOWN 1 PERCENT (20 MILLION POUNDS) FROM AUGUST 1 BUT 11 PERCENT ABOVE 1974 AND THE LARGEST CROP PRODUCED SINCE 1964. FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION IS UP 14 PERCENT AND THE BURLEY CROP IS 6 PERCENT LARGER THAN A YEAR AGO.

SUGAR CROPS--SUGARBEET PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL 28.2 MILLION TONS, 27 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR WHILE SUGARCANE, AT 28.9 MILLION TONS, IS EXPECTED TO BE 16 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO.

3. ACCORDING TO THE POST, BELL SAID THESE FIGURES "WOULD NOT CHANGE MY ASSESSMENT OF OUR ABILITY TO SUPPLY FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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GRAINS TO THE SOVIET UNION."

BELL SAID ANY DECISION ABOUT RESUMPTION OF SOVIET SALES PTL 40T COMF BEFORE MIO-OCTOBER.

"WE STILL EXPECT TO MAKE FURTHER SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION," HE SAID. "IT'S A QUESTION OF WHEN AND, LATER, OF HOW MUCH." HE CAUTIONED THAT FIRST THERE MUST BE SOME

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RESOLUTION OR CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE
FREIGHT RATES THAT THE SOVIETS WILL PAY TO USE SHIPS
FLYING THE U.S. FLAG AND THE LONG-TERM SOVIET PURCHASE
COMMITMENT NOW BEING SOUGHT BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

BELL SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO "GET INTO A DISCUSSION
OF NUMBERS" ON THE SIZE OF A COMMITMENT WASHINGTON IS
SEEKING FROM MOSCOW FOR FUTURE PURCHASES. HOWEVER,
HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS "SEEM REGULARLY TO NEED ABOUT
5 MILLION TONS OF CORN A YEAR AND ABOUT 3 MILLION TONS
OF WHEAT A YEAR." KISSINGER

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